

City of Rockville Commission on the Environment
January 8, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Faith Klareich (FK), Seth Adams (SA), Michelle Clark (MC), David Davis (DD), Kris Dighe (KD), Beri Kravitz (BK), Tolulope Odunlami (TO) and Geoff Sanders (GS).

Absent: Sura Yakowitz (SY).

Also in attendance: Staff Liaison Nate Wall (NW); Steve Cardon (SC) – Rockville resident and member of the Watershed Protection Working Group; and Mark Pierzchala – Rockville resident.

1. Welcome, News and Agenda Review

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm in the Diamondback Terrapin Room at Rockville City Hall.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

KD moves, DD seconds to adopt both November meeting minutes (November 13 and November 27). Unanimous vote to approve both sets of meeting minutes.

Commissioners did not have adequate time to review December 11 meeting minutes; thus, those meeting minutes will be adopted at the February 12th meeting.

3. Clean Cars Resolution

NW mentioned that Mark Charles presented the Clean Cars Resolution at last night's Mayor & Council meeting, where it was endorsed with a 4-0-1 vote (Councilmember Gajewski abstaining). BK said that the Environment Commission was not mentioned as having approved the legislation, and that it appeared as though Mark Charles was unaware of the Commission's involvement. NW mentioned that he had spoken with Mark prior to the meeting; NW will review the tape of the meeting, and will email Mayor & Council if a clarification is in order.

FK also mentioned the presentation that Dennis Moran gave to the Mayor and members of City staff on Energy and Climate Change issues. FK thought that the presentation may have been a bit too in-depth for most of the audience, but that the conclusions were good.

NW to clip off conclusion slides from Moran's PowerPoint presentation and send out to EC.

4. RORZOR comments

NW mentioned that comments had been successfully submitted to City staff, and that the next step would be the two public hearings held by the Planning Commission the last two weeks of January. The Commission's comments were included in the packet that they would be discussing.

FK said that it appears as though the City has a lot of similar items in the works right now: RORZOR, FTPO, PROS Plan, Rockville Pike Plan, probable Master Plan update – need to make sure that someone at the City is connecting all the dots here, and making sure these documents all sync up in the right places.

5. Green Building Program Development

FK went over the results from the December 4th and December 19th meetings where the HPB and Outreach groups attempted to nail down appropriate stakeholders for the beginning of the Green Building Program creation process. Right now, the stakeholders are divided into two sets: residential and commercial. There was the possibility of a third group, institutional, but for now we are at two. Is this enough to hit the target groups?

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KD thought that a half-day (3-4 hour) event seemed too long for small businesses to be able to attend. GS questioned where the break was between a “small” and “large” business.

FK mentioned that as many professional societies as appropriate were being invited to fill out the audience and represent those types of stakeholders who may not be able to appear personally.

NW mentioned that the City was in the process of procuring the services of an independent facilitation firm to assist with the meetings – this should allow the Commission to be more fully involved without having to personally handle to meeting logistics.

The goal is to start holding the meetings in late February / early March.

6. Stormwater Utility Fee

The Watershed Protection Group had prepared a list of consolidated comments on both the Stormwater Ordinance and Regulations. Commissioners liked the content of the remarks, but were unsure as to why certain number values were recommended (e.g., “change from 5,000 sq. ft to 500 sq. ft). KD said that SY had submitted many of those comments, and in her absence tonight he was not sure of the rationale for those recommendations.

The Watershed Protection Group will take another look at the Commission’s recommendations, and will work with NW to get them submitted to the record.

7. Working Group Updates

Watershed Protection Working Group

SC presented the case for why the Commission should adopt the section of stream that runs through Maryvale Park as its official Adopt-A-Stream segment.

KD moves, GS seconds that the Commission adopt the Maryvale Park stream – unanimous vote in favor of adoption.

FK mentioned that the Commission may wish to invite local HOAs, schools, to join us in stream cleanup / monitoring / other activities.

NW recommended that the Commission schedule the first cleanup day for April 5th, which will be this year’s Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup Day – there is lots of free advertising for this event, so it will be easier to get the word out to potentially interested residents.

High Performance Building and Outreach Working Group

Have held the previously-mentioned meetings concerning stakeholders for the green building program creation process. More meetings to come as that process gets engaged.

8. Staff Updates

NW presented a rough draft of the Environmental Management Division’s public outreach efforts in the form of creating a common “look and feel” or brand via a set of logos.

Commissioners had a variety of comments that NW will take back to the City’s Communication Team as the process moves forwards.

9. Wrap-Up and Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 pm.